



For Immediate Release

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Washington ESGR Breakfast with the Boss Honors Supportive Employers

YAKIMA, Wash. – YAKIMA, Wash. – The Greater Yakima Valley Chamber of Commerce and volunteers from the Washington Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) volunteers gathered in Yakima at an ESGR sponsored Breakfast with the Boss event. ESGR's Breakfast with the Boss brings together employers, unit commanders, ESGR volunteers and community leaders to discuss issues related to service in the Guard and Reserve.

The ESGR volunteers presented a briefing on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), which is the federal law that prohibits discriminatory, punitive or unlawful action against any member of the Guard or Reserve because of their performance of uniformed military service.

The event also recognized local employers who have gone above and beyond to support those who serve in the Guard and Reserve. The Greater Yakima Valley Chamber of Commerce was presented with the Seven Seals award. The Seven Seals Award is presented in recognition of significant individual or organizational achievement, initiative, or support that promotes and supports the ESGR mission, to include the efforts of the more than 4,500 volunteers who carry out ESGR's mission across the Nation on a daily basis. "The Greater Yakima Valley Chamber of Commerce has gone above and beyond to support the military efforts in the Yakima Valley, whether it's Active Duty, Veterans, or Guard and Reserve," said Mary Miller, the Area Chair for the West Central Committee for the Washington ESGR. "They have shared their time and space to accommodate events and announcements. The Greater Yakima Valley Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the community in sponsoring the Job Fair and Veteran's Stand Down which serves a large military community."

Also recognized for their support of those who serve in the reserve components was the Yakima Police Department, Brumback Law Group, and Baxter Construction who were nominated for a Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of employees serving in the Guard and Reserve. Each year, Guard and Reserve employees, or a family member acting on their behalf, have the opportunity to nominate their employer for the Employer Support Freedom Award. "It is the existence of civilian employment such as those recognized today that enables many to remain an active and integral part of the critical strategic role played by today's Guard and Reserve," Miller stated.

ESGR, a Department of Defense program, seeks to foster a culture in which all employers support and value the employment and military service of members of the National Guard and Reserve in the United

States. For more information about ESGR outreach programs or volunteer opportunities, call (800) 336-4590 or visit www.ESGR.mil.

Caption: Verlynn Best, President and CEO of Greater Yakima Valley Chambers of Commerce (GYVCC), was awarded the ESGR Seven Seals Award at the conclusion of the ESGR sponsored Breakfast with the Boss as Mary Miller, ESGR West Central Committee Area Chair, Thane Phelan, Vice President of Communications and Marketing (GYVCC) and Jon Ison, ESGR volunteer stand with Best.